GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:27
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
DEVASTATING FLOOD SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL
RUPCHAND PAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware regarding the devastating flood situation inWest Bengal during September-October of the current year and the extent of damage caused by the `National Calamity`;

(b) what steps have been taken by the Union Government to render financial help tothe State Government in order to undertake very large scale reconstruction in the flood damaged districts of West Bengal; and

(c) whether the `National Calamity Relief Fund` has been set-up to provide necessaryand urgent help in the event of such national calamity as recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The assistance rendered to the State of West-Bengal by the Central Government is as follows:-

(i) The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs.75.83 crores for 2000-2001 has been released.

(ii) Rs.422.43 crores has been released on 12th October, 2000 as revenue deficit grant.

(iii) Upto 20% of the Fund released under Accelerated Rural Water SupplyProgramme (ARWSP) can be spent on Sub-Mission projects/schemes.

(iv) 50 drilling rigs are available in the State for Rural Water Supply Programme.

(v) During current year, against the allocation of Rs.78.95 crores under ARWSP,first instalment of Rs.38.90 crores has been released. Further, under ongoing Sub-Mission Projects a sum of Rs.20.00 crores has been released.

(vi) Damaged Railway lines have already been restored for passenger as well as freight trains.

(vii) An additional allocation of 87,080 tonnes of rice at BPL rates has been made fordistribution to flood affected families at the rate of 20 Kg. per family.

(viii) NH −31, 34 & 35 restored to the traffic w.e.f. 6.10.2000.

(ix) To take up emergent repairs of flood damages Rs.7.00 crores has been released on 3rd October, 2000.

(x) 10,000 kilo litres kerosene oil has been dispatched to the State Government.

(xi) Disinfectants and other medicines have been supplied by the Department of Health including 1000 tonnes of bleaching powder.

(c): The Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) has recommended the creation of a National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the public account of the Government of India for providing assistance to the State Governments in the wake of a natural calamityof

severe nature. The Government has accepted the recommendation of the EFC in this regard.